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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0756  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINS](#) [KDEM](#) [ECON](#) [SG](#)  
SUBJECT: WADE TAKES CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

¶1. SBU) Summary: On June 24, the National Assembly renewed its leadership. The changes further isolated the President of the National Assembly, Macky Sall, whose main supporters lost their positions. END SUMMARY.

#### Harassing the Chair of the National Assembly

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¶2. (SBU) After firing him as the number two of the ruling Democratic Party of Senegal (PDS), President Abdoulaye Wade is continuing to put the pressure on Sall to force his resignation as the President of the National Assembly. The latter fell into disgrace after he initiated a hearing to have Wade's son, Karim, testify about the use of public funds in building infrastructure projects in the run up to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit that some have estimated go as high as USD 800,000,000. Wade and his son Karim no longer trust Sall. A counselor at the President's office close to Karim told Embassy that Karim played a major role in the latest changes because Sall has clearly shown that "he does not want to cooperate with him."

#### The losers

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¶3. (SBU) Among the most significant changes are the dismissal of MBaye Ndiaye and Aliou Sow, who were respectively vice President of the Assembly and Chair of the Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee. Their departure will deprive Sall of strong figures who can repel attacks against him within the Assembly. Kalidou Niasse and Serigne Fallou Mbacke, who did not sign a petition initiated by the ruling party to remove Sall, have also lost their positions as members of the Assembly's Directorate. As a result, they lose generous financial and in-kind privileges of access to two cars; one thousand liters of gas; USD 1,000 in telephone credit per month; and a monthly salary almost double that of a regular member. With the departure of Aliou Sow, the Youth wing of the PDS no longer has a voice in the leadership of the Assembly. A young Deputy at the Assembly told Embassy that Wade was unhappy that the Youth wing of the party did not oppose Aliou Sow when he sided with Sall's stance against the President.

#### The winners

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¶4. (SBU) Those who supported the removal of Sall received promotions. Bocar Sedikh Kane, the Mayor of Gediawaye (a very populous suburb of Dakar) is now Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee and NDiawar Toure, the Mayor of Rufisque becomes Vice President of the Assembly. Both executed Wade's orders to remove Macky Sall without hesitation. They also received promotions within the Directorate Committee of PDS. Wade also promoted Mamadou Diagne Fada to the rank of Vice President as part of his process to reunite his "political family" by allowing dissidents back. The new leadership of the Assembly also includes, Abdoulaye Babou as Deputy Majority Leader, Babou was a member of the opposition who joined the ruling party two years ago. He will help the PDS with legal issues especially as Wade attempts to extend his term in office.

Comment

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15. (SBU) President Wade has a hawkish and unsophisticated political entourage that does not tolerate any dissent within the party. At present, there are still about fifteen questions pending raised by Deputies to which Ministers have yet to answer. An atmosphere of suspicion between those who support the current chair and those who oppose him is prevalent. This negative atmosphere has paralyzed the institution with most deputies fearing reprisals if they show independence. Wade seems determined to pursue a strategy of total control of institutions and the elimination of independent-minded leaders such as Macky Sall. Wade does not forgive and forget. His last attempt to emasculate Sall was stopped at the behest of the new Khaliphe-General of the Mouride brotherhood to which Wade belongs. It was clear then this was just a temporary reprieve. Wade will not be satisfied until he has totally destroyed Sall and thus we can expect a further intensification of the battle between the two.

Smith